From: Project Earth <projectearth18@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2025 10:22 PM
To: cityhall
Cc: Srivatsa, Niroop, nchsu514@gmail.com
Subject: Project Earth Plastics Public Comment
Attachments: Project Earth Team - Plastics Letter of Support for 428 Meeting.pdf

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Hello City Council members,

I have attached a public comment letter below on item 8A about the ETF's goals and accomplishments presentation (specifically related to the plastics priority).

Thanks so much,
Raini Chugh

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Raini Chugh, David Siu, Lauren Brekke
Project Earth Team Leaders

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not" -The Lorax

April 27, 2025
Subject: Public Comment on Item 8A on 4/28/25 Agenda

Dear Lafayette City Council and Environmental Task Force members,

We are the Project Earth Team, a group of freshman high school students (all Lafayette residents) who are taking action to reduce our community's carbon footprint through education and advocacy, in order to combat the climate crisis. We've previously worked on the No Idling project with the City Council and Environmental Task Force and are grateful for your past partnership!

We have been concerned about Lafayette's reliance on plastic for a while now. We've noticed restaurants handing out heavy plastic to-go containers and grocery stores still only offering plastic bags. This is why we're excited that the City Council is considering a plastic foodware ordinance. And we're writing to urge you to prioritize this issue.

Plastics harm the environment at every stage. Plastic polymers are made from fossil fuels, releasing greenhouse gases during production. When plastic materials are burned, they emit even more CO2 and toxic chemicals. Then, when they are thrown away, they can take years to break down into microplastics – if they break down at all – and these tiny pieces pollute our land and water, where they can harm many forms of wildlife. In addition, as plastic breaks down in landfills, it releases methane and ethylene, more harmful greenhouse gases. All of these stages hurt our environment and worsen the climate crisis that we are fighting to stop.

We only have one planet. And right now, plastic pollution is quickly becoming a global problem that is worsening the climate crisis. But there are local solutions – and the City of Lafayette can help!

Reducing our community's reliance on single-use plastics is key to protecting our environment, and because of this, we are urging the City of Lafayette to prioritize the plastics ordinance. We will be ready to support this project in any way that we can, including raising awareness about this issue and helping businesses implement more sustainable foodware options.

Thanks so much. We hope Lafayette chooses to prioritize this important environmental issue!

Raini Chugh, David Siu, Lauren Brekke
Project Earth Team Leaders

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